Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 24 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Friday 25 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 23 Dec 2020 at 17:04

Confidence: High for a cold start and then a change, briefly, to milder, wetter and windier conditions but lower with regard to details, especially through Monday with low pressure centred over the UK.

Headline for Thursday 24 Dec 2020: Mainly dry with sunny spells. Cold with strong northerly winds

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 24 Dec 2020

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Low Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Rather cloudy with patchy** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Clear night	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Sunny	Clear night	Clear night
Precipitation probability							
<05%	00%	00%	20%	10%	00%	00%	00%

Forecast for Thursday 24 Dec 2020

Weather: Dry with long clear spells overnight with a widespread frost. Then a bright but frosty start to the day with some good spells of sunshine around, especially in the west, with perhaps just the odd light snow shower over more eastern fells. The afternoon and evening look dry with long sunny or clear spells.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Around 75% across eastern fells for a time in the morning with occasional cloud above 600m, otherwise close to 100% with little or no cloud below the summits.

Visibility: Very good or excellent falling to just a few kilometres in any light snow showers in the east.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
(C) Crown Copyright 2020. All Rights Reserved

Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 24 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	40/48 N	38/45 N	37/44 N	39/47 N	37/45 N	35/42 N	33/39 N	27/31 N	19/22 N
600	30/42 N	22/31 N	23/32 N	26/35 N	23/31 N	24/33 N	23/32 N	15/21 NW	12/16 N
300	10/30 N	6/26 N	9/29 N	9/28 N	8/24 N	10/27 N	9/26 N	6/20 N	4/13 NW
Valley	15/36 N	8/27 N	10/28 N	11/30 N	14/31 N	15/32 N	11/29 N	9/23 N	5/14 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-14	-4/-14	-5/-15	-5/-16	-5/-16	-5/-15	-5/-15	-5/-14	-5/-12
600	-2/-10	-3/-10	-3/-11	-3/-11	-3/-11	-2/-11	-3/-11	-3/-10	-3/-9
300	0/-4	-1/-4	-0/-5	-0/-5	0/-4	0/-5	-1/-6	-2/-5	-2/-4
Valley	2/-3	2/-2	2/-2	2/-2	2/-2	2/-3	1/-3	1/-3	0/-2
Freezing Level*	300m	100m	200m	100m	100m	200m	00m	00m	00m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Valley temperatures around minus 1 Celsius at first. Significant chill effect at all levels through the day.

Forecast for Friday 25 Dec 2020

Weather: Clear skies at first but cloud increasing from the northwest through the early hours. Then a cloudy morning with outbreaks of mainly light sleet and snow developing, these turning increasingly to rain below about 900m through the afternoon. The rain, and summit sleet and snow, becomes more persistent and occasionally heavy for a time through the late afternoon and evening.

Maximum wind: Northerly or northwesterly 15-20mph backing southwesterly 25-30mph through the morning, with gusts around 50mph over ridges and summits by evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Around 75% at first with occasional cloud above 750m but becoming close to zero through much of the day with periods or persistent cloud above 600m and, especially in south and west, patches below.

Visibility: Very good falling to a few kilometres in heavier rain and sleet and snow, and perhaps less than a kilometre in any heavier summit snow through the late afternoon and evening.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 2 or 3 Celsius overnight rising to plus 8 or 9 Celsius by day
At 800m: Around minus 4 Celsius rising to plus 2 Celsius through the afternoon and evening
Freezing level: All levels at first gradually rising to just above the summits.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
(C) Crown Copyright 2020. All Rights Reserved

Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 23 December Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:35 Full report: Snow has fallen overnight, during the day and continued to do so as the Assessor left the hill. It has settled above around 350m, but was already thawing below 500m. The consistency of the snowpack varied. Below around 600m it was mainly soft and wet. Above 600m it was increasingly soft powder. This was being blown about on the Strong Gale Force NE winds and so coverage varied enormously from virtually nothing on exposed areas, such as large parts of the summit plateau, to drifts deep enough to swallow a 70cm ice axe, although such depth was the exception. The deepest drifts are to be found in sheltered spots and hollows and on S and W facing slopes. Above 900m are patches of old, hard snow. As many of these were on N and E facing slopes, little fresh snow (blown in on NE winds) has settled over them. Above 750m there were patches of ice on paths and the frequency of these increased with altitude. Exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, consist of soft snow, hard snow and some verglas (thin ice) on rocks. Given the current forecast, there is likely to be more ice underfoot on Thursday, so such routes should only be attempted by those equipped for, and experienced in, such conditions. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone venturing out onto the fells. For those venturing above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep slopes an ice axe is essential and crampons should also be carried in case ice is encountered. Excellent navigational skills are required when deep snow obscuring landmarks is combined with low cloud. Hopefully, though, sunglasses will also be required for walkers out on Christmas Eve! Conversely, if conditions are similar to Wednesday's, then goggles are highly recommended. Climbers. The fresh snow is mainly powder and the turf has yet to freeze. Please do not attempt routes in these conditions as damage will be done to the rare alpine plants. Please refer to the BMC "White Climbing Guide" for details. Temperature: minus 1.4C Maximum wind speed 47.0mph Wind chill: minus 12.6C Average wind speed: 35.7mph

Issued at: 1704 on Wed 23 Dec 2020

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
(C) Crown Copyright 2020. All Rights Reserved